

Message Text

PAGE 01 BEIRUT 00605 101608Z
ACTION NODS-00

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /001 W
-----101611Z 126280 /42
O 101512Z FEB 77
FM AMEMBASSY BEIRUT
TO SECSTATE WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE 3027

S E C R E T BEIRUT 0605

NODIS

FROM CHARGE

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR, LE, US, IS
SUBJECT: SOUTHERN LEBANON

REF: (A) STATE 30069, (B) BEIRUT 0583

1. I CALLED ON FTREIGN MINISTER BOUTROS AT 12:30 P.M.
FEB 10 AT HIS REQUEST. AS SOON AS I ENTERED HIS OFFICE,
HE ASKED ME IF I HAD HEARD THE NEWS BROADCAST FROM
ISRAEL THIS MORNING. I REPLIED THAT I HAD. BOUTROS
SAID THAT THIS KIND OF PUBLICITY WAS EXTREMELY
TROUBLESOME FOR THE GOL. IT PUTS PRESIDENT SARKIS
IN AN EXTREMELY DELICATE POSITION VIS-A-VIS THE
LEBANESE PEOPLE AND OTHER ARAB COUNTRIES. BOUTROS
SAID THERE IS NO JUSTIFICATION FOR IT, AND "IT IS NOT
FAIR." HE ASKED THAT THE USG INTERVENE WITH THE
ISRAELI GOVT ON THIS SUBJECT. BOUTROS SUGGESTED
THAT THE ISRAELIS COULD SAY THAT AN UNDERSTANDING
SATISFACTORY TO ISRAEL HAD BEEN WORKED OUT, OR,
PREFERABLY, THAT A REDEPLOYMENT OF THE ASF WAS
UNDER WAY WHICH MET ISRAELI CONCERNS. BOUTROS
SAID THAT GOL WOULD PREFER NOT RPT NOT TO ISSUE
ANY PUBLIC STATEMENT OR COMMUNIQUE CONCERNING
SECRET

PAGE 02 BEIRUT 00605 101608Z

THE WITHDRAWAL OF ASF FORCES, BUT IF THIS KIND OF
PUBLICITY CONTINUES FROM THE ISRAELIS, THEY MAY
BE FORCED TO DO SO. THE PUBLICITY FROM ISRAEL;
THEY ARE MAKING A PUBLICITY STUNT OUT OF IT AND
DELIBERATELY TRYING TO EMBARRASS THE GOL. IF
IT CONTINUES, PRESIDENT SARKIS WILL BE PUSHED INTO
A CORNER AND BOUTROS HIMSELF, WHO HAD WORKED
HARD TO GET THIS AGREEMENT, WOULD BE DEEPLY
EMBARRASSED.

2. BOUTROS THEN ASKED THAT WE TELL THE ISRAELIS TO PUT PRESSURE ON THEIR "FRIENDS" IN THE AREA NOT TO ATTACK THE LEBANESE FORCES THAT WILL GO IN TO REPLACE THE SYRIAN ASF FORCES. THE GOL, FOR ITS PART, WILL TRY TO PREVENT THE "OTHER SIDE" FROM TAKING PROVOCATIVE ACTIONS, BUT ISRAEL MUST ASSIST IN CALMING THE SITUATION IN THE AREA BY USING ITS INFLUENCE TO RESTRAIN ITS "FRIENDS". ISRAEL SHOULD BE MORE DISCREET AND DIPLOMATIC. (COMMENT: ALTHOUGH BOUTROS WAS NOT SPECIFIC ABOUT WHO ISRAEL'S "FRIENDS" ARE, HE WAS OBVIOUSLY REFERRING TO RIGHT-WING CHRISTIAN FORCES IN THE BORDER AREA.)

3. BOUTROS THEN TOLD ME THAT THE WITHDRAWAL TO AYSHIYAH WOULD BE COMPLETED BY MONDAY, FEB 14 AT 0800 LOCAL.

4. I THEN PASSED TO BOUTROS ORALLY MESSAGE REF A. BOUTROS ASSURED ME THAT ONLY LEBANESE UNITS WOULD BE USED TO SUBSTITUTE FOR SYRIAN ASF FORCES. HE THEN ASKED IF ANY NON-SYRIAN ASF UNITS WOULD BE ACCEPTABLE, AND I REPLIED AS INSTRUCTED PARA 3 REF A.

SECRET

PAGE 03 BEIRUT 00605 101608Z

5. COMMENT: I REALIZE THAT ISRAEL'S PROBLEM WITH ASF DEPLOYMENT TO NABATIYAH AREA HAS ALWAYS BEEN PRIMARILY A POLITICAL/PUBLIC RELATIONS PROBLEM AND THAT GOI COULD HARDLY BE EXPECTED TO MAINTAIN TOTAL SILENCE ABOUT LEBANESE AGREEMENT TO WITHDRAW. HOWEVER, NEWS REPORTS HEARD HERE THIS MORNING ON BOTH ISRAELI RADIO AND BBC ARE EXACERBATING A DIFFICULT SITUATION AND RUBBING SALT IN LEBANESE WOUNDS. IF THIS SORT OF PUBLICITY CONTINUES, SARKIS AND BOUTROS WILL BE GREATLY EMBARRASSED AT BEST, AND AT WORST AGREEMENT MAY FALL APART, PARTICULARLY IF ISRAELIS TRUMPET IN ADVANCE THE EXACT TIME AND DATE OF PROMISED WITHDRAWAL. I THEREFORE URGE DEPT TO USE EVERY RESOURCE AT ITS DISPOSAL TO PERSUADE THE ISRAELIS TO HANDLE THIS MATTER WITH UTMOST DISCRETION AND UNDERSTANDING FOR ITS EFFECT ON PRESIDENT SARKIS AND LEBANON. PRESIDENT SARKIS'S AUTHORITY AND PRESTIGE WILL DEFINITELY BE WEAKENED BY THIS WITHDRAWAL IN ANY CASE, BUT THE DAMAGE MAY BE MANAGEABLE IF THE PUBLICITY IS NOT TOO EMBARRASSING.
LANE

SECRET

<< END OF DOCUMENT >>

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 22-Sep-1999 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: INSTRUCTIONS, SECURITY, TROOP DEPLOYMENT, FOREIGN POLICY POSITION, MILITARY OCCUPIED AREAS, TROOP REDUCTIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 10-Feb-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 22 May 2009
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977BEIRUT00605
Document Source: ADS
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: 11652 GDS
Errors: n/a
Expiration:
Film Number: P840084-0858
Format: TEL
From: BEIRUT
Handling Restrictions:
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t197702100/baaaewgd.tel
Line Count: 111
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, TEXT ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 834f1fbf-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: n/a
Original Classification: SECRET
Original Handling Restrictions: NODIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: SECRET
Previous Handling Restrictions: NODIS
Reference: (A) STATE 30069, (B) BEIRUT 0583
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 14-Apr-2005 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 3234294
Secure: LOCK1
Status: NATIVE
Subject: SOUTHERN LEBANON
TAGS: PFOR, MOPS, LE, SY, IS, US, (BOUTROS, FOUAD)
To: STATE NIACT
Type: TE
vdkgvkey: odbcc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/834f1fbf-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009